

3. Summary farewell

(12:10-12:20)

Esteemed Zuhail Demir, Belgian State Secretary for Science and Technology,

Esteemed Ambassador Qu Xing,

Honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Today, the representatives of both the governments, universities, scientific research institutions, technology parks, industry associations, corporate investors, technology transfer organisations and innovation enterprises of both China and Belgium have been present, to take part in this, the First China-Belgium Innovation Dialogue. In the talks this morning, everybody has had a chance to share their views on scientific and technological innovation policy, and to present feedback and share best practices in terms of future industries, life sciences, aerospace and other such leading areas of cooperation between China and Belgium, and we have been able to exchange ideas in relation to the

flow of personnel and cooperation between us on major projects such as technology parks; this has led to the signing of a whole series of memoranda relating to inter-institutional scientific and technological innovation cooperation, and consensus has been reached regarding future enhancement of pragmatic cooperation between China and Belgium in scientific and technological innovation.

This is the first China-Belgium Innovation Dialogue held jointly by China and Belgium, and this has allowed positive exploration of possibilities between our two countries. In preparation for this Dialogue, the Ministry of Science and Technology in China and the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office carried out numerous discussions, while the ambassador of China in Belgium and the ambassador of Belgium in China both placed special emphasis on and provided their support for this Dialogue. At the same time, I would particularly like to thank the Belgian federal government and various regional governments for their efforts to ensure successful innovation cooperation between China and Belgium. **The success of these meetings today symbolises the official creation of the mechanisms for innovation cooperation between China and Belgium, and creates a firm foundation for high-level dialogues and normalisation of cooperation in relation to innovation between our two countries.**

China and Belgium have great potential in terms of complementing each other in the field of scientific and technological innovation cooperation, and there is a great future in terms of cooperation in microelectronics, biotechnology, agriculture and foodstuffs, space, aerospace, the environment and new energy sources etc. With regard to the future, I would like to make the three following suggestions:

1. Expansion of the funding mechanisms required by shared Chinese and Belgian scientific research and innovation. The Ministry of Science and Technology in China and the State Natural Sciences Funding Committee have already established funding mechanisms in relation to shared scientific research and innovation with the Belgian federal and regional governments, which will allow both our nations to support and ensure cooperation in terms of mobility of personnel, shared research and development and technology transfer. I hope that central and local governments [of China], and the federal and regional governments [of Belgium] will examine the possibility of extending cooperation on funding to include not only fundamental research but also to include industry solutions.

2. Exploring the possibility of developing scientific and technological innovation cooperation between China and Belgium within the framework of Sino-European shared funding mechanisms.

In order to further encourage and stimulate the willingness of those scientific and technological and industrial circles in China and Belgium to cooperate in scientific research and innovation, and to ensure that scientific and technological innovation continues to play a supporting role in terms of the sustainable development of both Chinese and European societies and economies, a Sino-European scientific research and innovation shared funding mechanism was established in 2015, with Europe providing in excess of one hundred million Euros annually based on the “Horizon 2020” framework, while the Ministry of Science and Technology in China invested not more than two hundred million Yuan annually, thus providing shared support for cooperation in scientific and technological innovation between China and Belgium. I would hope that both China and Belgium will

be able to establish joint teams of experts in key sectors, and these would then be responsible for fermenting and suggesting topics for shared research, and exploration of possibilities for their development within the framework of the Sino-European scientific research and innovation shared funding mechanism.

3. Go further to establish the standing of companies of both nations in terms of scientific and technological innovation cooperation. This afternoon, we will be back here to carry on with a China-Belgium scientific and technological innovation forum, and we will be holding a number of joint cooperation meetings dealing with future industries, life sciences and the aerospace sector etc., and in addition to the governments, higher educational institutions and research bodies of both countries, technology parks, industry associations, corporate investors, technology transfer organisations and innovation enterprises will also be taking part. I hope that representatives from both our countries will have the opportunity for an in-depth exchanges of ideas, and to act as an inspiration for each other, as this will ensure that we are able to come up with new modes of thought, new opportunities and new highlights in terms of future scientific and technological innovation cooperation between China and Belgium.

Ladies and gentlemen,

These days, all countries around the globe are faced by the new changes and challenges resulting from rapidly evolving technology and reforms in industry, therefore further enhancement in terms of cooperation in scientific and technological innovation is key to opening up the path to greater growth, and this is a need shared in terms of sustainable development of the economies and societies of both China and Belgium; this is also the main motivation for encouraging greater pragmatic cooperation between China and Belgium. I hope that China and Belgium can join hands in encouraging scientific and technological innovation cooperation, relying on each other's strengths to create a win-win situation, thus making a major contribution not only in terms of the development of the economies and societies of each country, but also in terms of responding to the major global challenges encountered today.

Finally, I would like to thank everybody for supporting cooperation in scientific and technological innovation between China and Belgium, and I would like to wish every success to the China-Belgium scientific and technological innovation forum this afternoon. Thank you everybody!